

he and his partners came from Atlanta to Rome for the first time and attempted to go South on Broad Street, somewhere between Sixth Avenue and the Cotton Block, he was followed by a police car. While approaching the Etowah River Bridge, he was stopped by a white officer from the Rome City Police and asked where he was going. As a native of Atlanta, he had been put in jail many times for speaking out on injustices, and when the officer spoke to him, he proceeded getting out of his car, showing no fear. He was a black man driving a 1921 Black Cadillac. He was 6'6" and he wore a size 15 shoe. He pointed ahead and looking down on him, he told the officer, "Do you see that bridge? I'm going to cross that bridge, but I don't know what the condition of it will be, when I return." He was letting the officer know that he was not afraid of whatever might happen to him. He knew it was a possibility that the bridge might be impassable when he needed to cross back over. Yet he had no fear in addressing a white officer during a segregated time in a small rural town in 1921. Bishop Mitchell said the officer looked up and told him to get back into his car and proceed across the bridge.

He continued coming to Rome and became a resident. He found a handful of saints worshipping under the leadership of Mother Ricks. He began preaching, day and night, at 200 Nixon Avenue. At that time, the church was in financial trouble. He helped the church get out of debt, and afterwards, it was completely renovated. The church was named New Hope.

Bishop Mitchell was an entrepreneur, investing in rental property throughout the Rome community. He understood the disadvantages of being a black businessman in the South, but that did not stop him from reaching his goals. No matter what the opposition, the success of the church can be attributed to the zeal and honesty of the man who is credited with founding the New Hope Overcoming Church in Rome, Georgia. He lived at 500 Wilson Avenue and served as leader of the Church of God for forty-six years, until his death in 1966. He was the first to be buried in the Shadyside Memorial Gardens, a cemetery located in South Rome. He was highly respected by his peers, who gave honorable remarks at his funeral services: Rev. J.L. Vaughn (Lovejoy Baptist Church), Rev. Clarence Tuggle (Thankful Baptist Church), Rev. G.P. Bowman (Mt. Calvary Baptist Church) and Rev. J.W. Baxter (Solomon Temple).

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IN HONOR OF CHARLES ROUSE,  
VIETNAM VETERAN AND RECIPIENT  
OF THE SILVER STAR AND  
BRONZE STAR

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### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 13, 2012*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist Four Charles Rouse, a courageous and gallant American veteran. Not only

did he risk his life to defend America's ideals in Vietnam, but he served with such heroism that he was awarded two of the most distinguished military honors one can receive, the Silver Star and the Bronze Star. Mr. Rouse's patriotism and allegiance to his country are nothing short of astounding, and we all owe our livelihoods to individuals like him who make similar sacrifices and bold choices every day.

Like so many others who were drafted to serve in Vietnam, Mr. Rouse had the task of carrying out necessary missions and protecting the lives of his fellow soldiers. Mr. Rouse not only performed those responsibilities with utmost dedication, he chose to go above and beyond the call of duty. The Silver and Bronze Stars are only given to those few individuals who exhibit extraordinary valor and courage in the face of the enemy. To receive even one of them is an extremely high honor. Mr. Rouse was one of those very few who received not only one of these prestigious awards, but both of them. We are so fortunate and so proud that he wore a U.S. uniform.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rouse's unfaltering love for this country and its people is truly remarkable and should not go unrecognized. To his family and friends whom he holds dear, you certainly do not have to be told of his magnificent character. While serving his country, Mr. Rouse exhibited the extraordinary courage that is required to do what most of us cannot even imagine. It is for these reasons that we honor him today and why his legacy will live on forever.